

Sometimes peaches, etc., are rubbed over the interior of parching trays²⁸⁵ to prevent them from burning.¹

When the water bottle is ready for its coating, it is vigorously²⁸⁵ rubbed all over with a dry corncob so that the fine fragments of the latter will fill the interstices. A mouthful of water is sprayed over the basket,³⁸¹ then the soapweed paste is smeared on and rubbed in. This paste is made of old soapweed stalks which are pounded, the connective tissue worked up with water into a dough, and set aside for future use. When wanted it is pounded up and again mixed into a paste with water. After this is applied, a handful of red paint powder is mixed with water and smeared over the still wet bottle.² The bottle is then stood in the sun to dry. It next receives a coat of piñon pitch (*dnaid*). The clear gum of this tree is picked off the bark, and boiled down for ten or twenty minutes until dark brown. A quantity (six or seven cupsful) of the liquid is poured inside the bottle. Brush is stuck into the mouth to serve as a handle. The bottle is then laid on its side near a bed of coals—the pitch is highly inflammable—and continuously turned over, the heat preventing the pitch from coagulating until it has filled all the interstices. More pitch is evidently poured or swabbed over the exterior of the bottle; which rests on a bed of brush piled over the coals.³ A piece of cloth or buckskin is frequently placed over the pointed bottom; one bottle (50.2-1040) has a pad of loosely woven yucca fiber, sticking tight to the soft pitch. The pitch does not melt in the sun to any extent after it once hardens.

The material used in sewing coiled baskets⁴ is the twig of the *gubai'*²⁸⁵ (which grows up the canyon, not near the village) or the cottonwood. The bark is scraped off and the wood split. The split sections are scraped to uniform width. They are prepared at leisure and coiled for storage like those of the Pima.⁴ When desired for use they are soaked in water. [17] All coiled baskets are sewed on a three-rod foundation; all three rods being of the same size.⁴ The ends of three peeled and scraped cottonwood twigs are mashed and tied in a knot. One end of the sewing element is passed under one rod (*djImta*) close to the knot. The rods are started in a spiral and the binder stitched around them into the center

¹ Cushing states that these trays are "coated with mineral sandstone and earth". (a), 550. This is incorrect; no earthy substance is ever used. His mistake is natural since the ball of mineral tissue which is kept for the purpose looks very much like clay. The point is important, for Cushing's theory of the development of pottery from earthen linings for baskets, based on the Havasupai case, has been widely quoted. (b), 484-493. [144]

² I do not understand why the bottles are colored, unless it is intended that this coating color shows through the pitch which is subsequently applied.

³ My notes are not explicit on this point.

⁴ Nimeth, Fig. 18.

⁵ Usually, single, or two-rod foundations are never used.